

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A system for suspending a load over a floor, said system comprising a first, second, third, and fourth elongated, enclosed, hollow tracks, plural elongated cross members, a plurality of trucks, and a plurality of generally U-shaped hangers, each of said tracks including a longitudinally extending slot, each of said hangers having a downwardly extending leg, an intermediate section and an upwardly extending leg, said first and second tracks being disposed parallel to each other over the floor, said third and fourth tracks being disposed parallel to each other and interconnected by at least one of said cross members to form a runway frame, a first one of said trucks being located within said first track and arranged to move along the interior of said first track, a second one of said trucks being located within said second track and arranged to move along the interior of said second track, said first truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of a first of said hangers, with a portion of said first hanger passing through said slot in said first track, said upwardly extending leg of said first hanger being connected to said third track to support said third track beside and parallel to said first track, said second truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of a second of said hangers, with a portion of said second hanger passing through said slot in said second track, said upwardly extending leg of said second hanger being connected to said fourth track to support said fourth track beside and parallel to said second track, whereupon said runway frame is disposed horizontally between said first and second tracks and can be slid in a horizontal plane from a retracted position to an extended position and vice versa.

2. The system of Claim 1 additionally comprising a third truck located within said first track, a third hanger connected to said third truck, a fourth truck located within said second track, and a fourth hanger connected to said fourth truck, said third truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said third hanger, with a portion of said third hanger passing through said slot in said first track, said upwardly extending leg of said third hanger being connected to said third track, said fourth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said fourth hanger, with a portion of said fourth hanger passing through said slot in said second track, said upwardly extending leg of said fourth hanger being connected to said fourth track.

3. The system of Claim 1 additionally comprising an elongated bridge member connected transversely between said third and fourth tracks.

4. The system of Claim 3 additionally comprising fifth and sixth trucks, and fifth and sixth hangers, and wherein said elongated bridge member comprises a pair of ends, said fifth truck being located within said third track and arranged to move along the interior of said third track, said fifth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said fifth hangers, with a portion of said fifth hanger passing through said slot in said third track, said upwardly extending leg of said fifth hanger being connected to one of said ends of said bridge member, said sixth truck being located within said fourth track and arranged to move along the interior of said fourth track, said sixth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger, with a portion of said sixth hanger passing through said slot in said fourth track, said upwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger being connected to the other of said ends of said bridge member, whereupon said bridge

member can be slid in a horizontal plane to various longitudinal positions along said runway frame.

5. The system of Claim 2 additionally comprising an elongated bridge member connected transversely between said third and fourth tracks.

5 6. The system of Claim 5 additionally comprising fifth and sixth trucks, and fifth and sixth hangers, and wherein said elongated bridge member comprises a pair of ends, said fifth truck being located within said third track and arranged to move along the interior of said third track, said fifth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said fifth hangers, with a portion of said fifth hanger passing through said slot in said third track, said upwardly extending leg of said fifth hanger being connected to one of said ends of said bridge member, said sixth truck being located within said fourth track and arranged to move along the interior of said fourth track, said sixth truck being connected to said downwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger, with a portion of said sixth hanger passing through said slot in said fourth track, said upwardly extending leg of said sixth hanger being connected to the other of said ends of said bridge member, whereupon said bridge member can be slid in a horizontal plane to various longitudinal positions along said runway frame.

10 7. The system of Claim 1 wherein each of said trucks includes plural wheels for rolling along the interior of the track in which it is located.

15 8. The system of Claim 4 wherein each of said trucks includes plural wheels for rolling along the interior of the track in which it is located.

20 9. The system of Claim 6 wherein each of said trucks includes plural wheels for rolling along the interior of the track in which it is located.

10. The system of Claim 1 additionally comprising plural upstanding posts for supporting said first and second tracks above the floor.

11. The system of Claim 1 wherein said system is arranged to be utilized with a vehicle, said vehicle including a hollow body bounded by plural upstanding walls, a ceiling, 5 a floor, and an openable entry thereto, said system being arranged to be mounted within said hollow body immediately adjacent the ceiling to provide maximum clearance space between said system and the floor.

12. The system of Claim 11 wherein said runway frame is arranged to be extended out of the openable entry in the hollow body of the vehicle.